

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A joint for a trim panel comprising:

 a first outer cover having an inner surface, an outer surface and a connector portion formed therein;

 a second outer cover having an inner surface, an outer surface and a connector portion formed therein;

 a connector platform having an outer surface and a first connector portion and a second connector portion, the first connector portion connected to the first outer cover connector portion and the second connector portion connected to the second outer cover connector portion, wherein each outer cover portion connector portion is disposed along a respective joint line edge of each cover portion and includes a plurality of receptacles and said first and second connector portions of said connector platform include a plurality of protrusions extending from said connector platform outer surface, and said protrusions engage said receptacles wherein said inner surfaces of said first and second cover portion contact said outer surface of said connector platform.

Claim 2. (Original) The joint for a trim panel of claim 1 including a joint cover overlying the connector platform, the joint cover covering the connection between the connector platform first connector portion and the first outer cover connector portion and the joint cover

covering the connection between the connector platform second connector portion and the second outer cover connector portion.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) A joint for a trim panel comprising:

a first outer cover having an inner surface, an outer surface, a joint line edge and a connector portion formed therein, the connector portion comprising a plurality of receptacles disposed along the first outer cover joint line edge, the receptacles comprising through holes;

a second outer cover having an inner surface, an outer surface, a joint line edge and a connector portion formed therein, the connector portion comprising a plurality of receptacles disposed along the second outer cover joint line edge, the receptacles comprising through holes;

a connector platform having an outer surface and a first connector portion and a second connector portion, the first connector portion comprising a plurality of protrusions and the second connector portion comprising a plurality of protrusions;

wherein the protrusions of the first connector portion of the connector platform extend into the receptacles of the first outer cover to form a connection between the connector platform first connector portion and the first outer cover connector portion;

and wherein the protrusions of the second connector portion of the connector platform extend into the receptacles of the second outer cover to form a connection between the connector platform second connector portion and the second outer cover connector portion, wherein said inner surfaces of said first and second cover portion contact said outer surface of said connector platform.

Claim 4. (Original) The joint for a trim panel of claim 3 including a joint cover overlying the connector platform, the joint cover covering the connection between the connector platform first connector portion and the first outer cover connector portion and the joint cover covering the connection between the connector platform second connector portion and the second outer cover connector portion.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A trim panel comprising:

- a first outer cover having an inner surface;
- a second outer cover having an inner surface;
- a connector platform having an outer surface;
- a joint comprising said first outer cover and said second outer cover connected to said connector platform;
- a substrate held in spaced relationship to said first outer cover and said second outer cover;
- said spaced relationship comprising foam, wherein each outer cover includes a connector portion, said connector portion disposed along a respective joint line edge of each cover portion and formed therein, said outer cover connector portions including a plurality of receptacles, wherein said connector platform includes first and second connector portions which include a plurality of protrusions, and said protrusions engage said receptacles wherein said inner surfaces of said first and second cover portion contact said outer surface of said connector platform.

Claim 6. (Original) The trim panel of claim 5 including a joint cover overlying said connector platform.

Claim 7. (Original) The trim panel of claim 6 wherein said joint cover overlying said connector platform includes covering the connection between the first outer cover and the connector platform and the connection between the second outer cover and the connector platform.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A trim panel comprising:

- a first outer cover having an inner surface;
- a second outer cover having an inner surface;
- a connector platform having an outer surface;
- a joint comprising said first outer cover and said second outer cover connected to said connector platform;
- a substrate formed directly behind said first outer cover and said second outer cover, comprising a reaction injection molded plastic composition, wherein each outer cover includes a connector portion, said connector portion disposed along a respective joint line edge of each outer cover and formed therein, said outer cover connector portions including a plurality of receptacles, wherein said connector platform includes first and second connector portions which include a plurality of protrusions, and said protrusions engage said receptacles wherein said inner surfaces of said first and second cover portion contact said outer surface of said connector platform.

Claim 9. (Original) The trim panel of claim 8 including a joint cover overlying said connector platform.

Claim 10. (Original) The trim panel of claim 9 wherein said joint cover overlying said connector platform includes covering the joint between the first outer cover and the connector platform and the connection between the second outer cover and the connector platform.

Claim 11. (Original) The trim panel of claim 8 wherein said reaction injection molded plastic composition is reinforced with fibers.

Claim 12. The trim panel of claim 8 wherein said reaction injection molded plastic composition comprises polyurethane.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) A method for forming a joint for a trim panel comprising:

providing a first outer cover having an inner surface, an outer surface and a connector portion formed therein;

providing a second outer cover having an inner surface, an outer surface and a connector portion formed therein;

providing a connector platform having an outer surface and a first connector portion and a second connector portion,

connecting the first connector portion to the first outer cover connector portion and connecting the second connector portion to the second outer cover connector portion, wherein each outer cover portion connector portion is disposed along a respective joint line edge of each cover portion and includes a plurality of receptacles and said first and second connector portions of said connector platform include a plurality of protrusions, and said protrusions engage said

receptacles wherein said inner surfaces of said first and second cover portion contact said outer surface of said connector platform.

Claim 14. (Original) The method of claim 13 further including providing a joint cover and overlying the connector platform with said joint cover, wherein the joint cover covers the connection between the connector platform first connector portion and the first outer cover connector portion and the joint cover covers the joint between the connector platform second connector portion and the second outer cover connector portion.